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ABSTRACT

The survey conducted in May, 1975 by the Bureau of Census showed that both the number of employees working more than the standard 40-hour workweek and the number receiving premium pay for hours in excess of the standard were substantially fewer than in the previous year. About 14.1 million wage and salary employees worked overtime in May, 1975 (down 2 million from 1974) and about 5.1 million of them (down 1.6 million from 1974) received overtime pay for those hours. The changes were linked to the decline in economic activity beginning in late 1973. The goods industries, accounting for about two-fifths of all employees on extended workweeks in May, 1973, sustained about four-fifths of the employee reduction on long weeks in the following two-year period. In the automobile industry, employees on overtime declined by approximately 70 percent. Overall, the proportion of workers on overtime who received premium pay declined from about 43 percent in 1973 to 36 percent in 1975. Blue-collar workers were more than three times as likely as white-collar workers to receive premium pay. Among overtime workers employed in May, 1975 who received overtime pay, about 70 percent were union members and 30 percent were non-union. (EA)

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SUMMARY SPECIAL LABOR FORCE REPORT

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Workweeks of 41 hours or more and premium pay

Both the number of employees who worked more than the "standard" 40-hour workweek and the number who received premium pay for hours in excess of the standard were substantially fewer in May 1975 than a year earlier. These changes, which followed lesser decreases in the previous year, were linked to the decline in economic activity which began in late 1973.

In all, about 14.1 million wage and salary employees worked 41 hours or more a week in May 1975, down 2 million from a year earlier. About 5.1 million of them, or 1.6 million fewer than the preceding year, received premium pay for those hours.

Employees	May 1973	May 1974	May 1975
	(Numbers in thousands)		
Total working 41 hours or more.....	16,828	16,144	14,122
Receiving premium pay:			
Number.....	7,185	6,705	5,090
Percent.....	42.7	41.5	36.0

This report refers to all wage and salary employees with one job who worked 41 hours or more a week, whether or not those hours included overtime at premium pay.

September 1975

In May 1975, 5.0 million employees in the goods-producing industries and 9.2 million in the service-producing industries worked 41 hours or more a week. (See table 1.) The goods industries, which accounted for about two-fifths of all employees on extended workweeks in May 1973, sustained about four-fifths of the reduction in employees on long weeks in the subsequent 2-year period. In the automobile industry alone, employees on workweeks of 41 hours or more had declined by about 320,000, or 70 percent.

Small increases in the number of employees who worked extended weeks were reported for local government, health services except hospitals, and mining.

Overall, the proportion of workers on extended hours who received premium pay declined from about 43 percent in 1973 to 36 percent in 1975. In the service industries, however, the proportion receiving premium pay was about the same as 2 years earlier, 26 percent. (See table 2.) This was about half the proportion in the goods-producing industries who received pay for extended workweeks in 1975.

The decrease since May 1973 in the number of employees on extended workweeks was far greater among blue-collar than white-collar employees. (See table 3.) Although about 4.9 million blue-collar and 7.7 million white-collar workers worked 41 hours or more in May 1975, the former were more than three times as likely to receive premium pay. (See table 4.)

Among the workers who were employed more hours than the standard workweek in May 1975, about 70 percent of those who were union members and 30 percent who were unorganized received premium pay. (See table 5.)

These findings are from the annual survey of extended workweeks and premium pay. This survey was conducted in May 1975 for the Bureau of Labor Statistics by the Bureau of the Census.

Table 1. Wage and salary employees working 41 hours or more a week, by industry group, May 1973 to May 1975

(In thousands)

Industry group	1973	1974	1975
All industries	16,828	16,144	14,122
Goods-producing	7,099	6,556	4,963
Agriculture	476	506	513
Mining	221	231	256
Construction	924	862	715
Manufacturing	5,478	4,957	3,479
Durable goods	3,456	3,163	2,040
Nondurable goods	2,022	1,794	1,439
Service-producing	9,729	9,588	9,159
Transportation and public utilities	1,163	1,195	999
Trade	3,714	3,528	3,515
Finance	723	687	739
Services	3,491	3,499	3,291
Professional 1/	2,341	2,428	2,334
Other 2/	1,150	1,071	957
Public administration	635	680	617
Federal 3/	288	282	227
State	94	97	90
Local	253	301	300

1/ Includes health, education, and welfare services.
2/ Includes forestry and fisheries, business repair services, entertainment, and personal services.
3/ Includes postal workers.

NOTE: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.

Table 2. Percentage of full-time wage and salary employees who worked 41 hours or more a week, and who received premium pay for work in excess of 40 hours, by industry group, May 1973 to May 1975

Industry group	Percent who worked 41 hours or more			Percent of those working 41 hours or more who received premium pay		
	1973	1974	1975	1973	1974	1975
All industries	27.1	25.3	22.9	42.7	41.5	36.0
Goods-producing	28.3	25.8	21.5	65.0	62.0	54.5
Agriculture	51.1	51.3	51.8	6.7	8.1	8.6
Mining	36.3	39.5	34.9	65.6	65.8	59.0
Construction	21.5	20.2	19.1	56.6	53.6	53.0
Manufacturing	28.4	25.3	19.8	71.5	68.8	61.3
Durable goods	29.5	26.7	19.1	75.5	72.5	64.1
Nondurable goods	26.6	23.2	20.8	64.6	62.2	57.3
Service-producing	25.4	25.0	23.7	26.4	27.5	26.0
Transportation and public utilities	25.1	24.0	20.9	54.9	53.7	48.3
Trade	36.5	34.0	33.0	26.7	28.6	27.5
Finance	20.0	18.7	19.8	13.8	17.6	18.8
Professional services 1/	21.6	21.5	19.9	13.5	14.3	15.0
Miscellaneous services 2/	30.9	29.3	27.3	25.0	27.0	23.4
Public administration	15.6	15.9	14.2	38.0	34.4	36.3
Federal 3/	13.7	12.7	10.6	59.7	58.9	55.5
State	14.2	13.9	13.1	24.5	14.4	12.2
Local	19.2	22.3	19.9	17.8	17.9	29.0

1/ Includes health, education, and welfare services.

2/ Includes forestry and fisheries, business repair services, entertainment, and personal services.

3/ Includes postal workers.

Table 3. Wage and salary employees working 41 hours or more a week, by occupational group, May 1973 to May 1975

(In thousands)

Occupational group	1973	1974	1975
All occupations	16,828	16,144	14,122
White-collar	7,906	7,988	7,657
Professional and technical workers	2,537	2,705	2,515
Managers and administrators	2,866	2,928	2,904
Clerical workers	1,323	1,333	1,167
Sales workers	1,180	1,023	1,072
Blue-collar	7,200	6,503	4,864
Skilled trades	3,028	2,826	2,135
Operatives, except transport	2,387	2,010	1,382
Transport equipment operatives	1,063	1,034	811
Nonfarm laborers	722	633	537
Service workers	1,338	1,208	1,183
Farm workers	384	444	418

NOTE: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.

Table 4. Percentage of full-time wage and salary employees who worked 41 hours or more a week, and who received premium pay for work in excess of 40 hours, by occupational group, May 1973 to May 1975

Occupational group	Percent who worked 41 hours or more			Percent of those working 41 hours or more who received premium pay		
	1973	1974	1975	1973	1974	1975
All occupations	27.1	25.3	22.9	42.7	41.5	36.0
White-collar	26.5	25.5	24.2	20.7	21.8	19.6
Professional and technical workers	27.4	27.4	24.5	15.3	17.9	15.3
Managers and administrators	44.4	42.6	42.1	11.1	10.8	10.0
Clerical workers	12.0	11.7	10.3	60.5	60.9	59.1
Sales workers	37.2	31.8	33.4	11.2	12.1	13.0
Blue-collar	28.4	25.5	21.1	72.2	70.5	66.0
Skilled trades	30.5	28.4	22.7	66.3	66.8	63.3
Operatives, except transport	24.6	21.0	16.9	88.2	85.1	80.3
Transport equipment operatives	39.9	38.5	32.2	55.1	54.6	48.6
Nonfarm laborers	23.5	19.5	18.2	69.0	65.9	65.7
Service workers	21.3	19.6	18.8	24.7	29.6	29.9
Farm workers	55.3	57.8	54.9	3.9	5.9	5.0

Table 5. Percentage of full-time wage and salary employees who worked 41 hours or more a week, and who received premium pay for work in excess of 40 hours, by union/nonunion status and occupational and industry group, May 1975

Occupational and industry group	Percent who worked 41 hours or more		Percent of those working 41 hours or more who received premium pay	
	Union	Nonunion	Union	Nonunion
Total.....	16	25	69	29
Occupational group				
White-collar.....	16	25	42	17
Blue-collar.....	16	25	83	57
Service workers.....	15	20	48	6
Farm workers.....	1/	56	1/	5
Industry group				
Goods-producing.....	14	26	89	44
Agriculture.....	1/	53	1/	8
Mining.....	1/	41	1/	54
Construction.....	12	23	73	47
Manufacturing.....	14	23	92	50
Service-producing.....	18	25	53	22
Transportation and public utilities...	19	22	71	29
Trade.....	21	35	73	24
Finance and services.....	16	22	18	18
Public administration.....	16	13	50	29

1/ Percent not shown where base is less than 75,000.

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